

Application No. Unassigned
Attorney's Docket No. 022701-976
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REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-13

1. (Amended) Process for the selective separation of iron present in a solution in the presence of other metal ions, [including] optionally comprising vanadium, [characterized in that it consists in] comprising treating the solution with an ion-exchange resin comprising diphosphonic acid groups.
2. (Amended) Process according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the ion-exchange resin comprises sulphonic groups.
3. (Amended) Process according to claim 1 [or 2], [characterized in that] wherein the solution comprising the metal ions is at a pH of less than 3.
4. (Amended) Process according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the [abovementioned] solution results from a process for the oxidation of organic compounds in the presence of a catalyst.
5. (Amended) Process for the recycling of a catalyst in a reaction for the oxidation of an organic compound in the presence of a catalyst comprising metal elements, [characterized in that it consists in] comprising treating the solution comprising the catalyst, after separation of at least the compounds resulting from the oxidation, with an ion-exchange resin comprising diphosphonic acid groups, in order to fix the iron present in the

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Marked-up Claims 1-13

said solution, and in recycling [the] said solution, depleted in iron, as catalytic solution for the oxidation reaction.

6. (Amended) Process according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the ion-exchange resin comprises sulphonic groups.

7. (Amended) Process according to claim 5 [or 6], [characterized in that] wherein the oxidation reaction is carried out while using, as an oxidizing agent, a compound [chosen] selected from the group consisting of oxygen, air, peroxides, aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution and nitric acid.

8. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 5 to 7,] claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the oxidation reaction is the reaction for the oxidation of alcohols and/or ketones to carboxylic acids.

9. (Amended) Process for the manufacture of adipic acid by oxidation of cyclohexanol and/or cyclohexanone in the presence of the catalyst based on metal elements, [characterized in that it consists in] comprising treating the solution resulting from the oxidation comprising the catalyst, after separation of the adipic acid formed, with at least one ion-exchange resin comprising diphosphonic groups, in order to deplete [the] said

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solution in iron ions, and in reusing [the] said solution, depleted in iron, as a catalyst for the oxidation reaction.

10. (Amended) Process according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the oxidation catalyst is based on copper and vanadium.

11. (Amended) Process according to claim 9 [or 10], [characterized in that] wherein the solution comprising the catalyst is a nitric solution from the elution of an ion-exchange resin which makes it possible to separate the metal ions from the carboxylic acid byproducts from the reaction for the oxidation of cyclohexanol and/or cyclohexanone to adipic acid.

12. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the ion-exchange resin comprising diphosphonic acid groups is regenerated with an acidic solution.

13. (Amended) Process according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the regeneration of the resin is carried out with a different acid from nitric acid and [the] said regeneration resin is conditioned with a nitric acid solution or by washing with water before a fresh use.